

# International Polar Year 2007 - 2008

## Resources on Polar Research in the NOAA Central Library Network

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**Abstract-** Located in Silver Spring, Maryland, the NOAA Central Library (NCL) networks over thirty NOAA libraries nationwide. NCL is considered the historically richest and most comprehensive multidisciplinary scientific collection in hydrographic surveying, oceanography, ocean engineering, atmospheric sciences (climatology and meteorology), meteorological satellite applications, living marine resources, geophysics, cartography, and mathematics in the United States, possibly in the Western Hemisphere. It incorporates holdings of NOAA's predecessor agencies, including the Coast and Geodetic Survey, the Weather Bureau, and the Bureau of Fisheries. The collections reflect the history of these organizations, their scientific research, observations and data from 1820 to the present.

The NOAA Library Network collections are unique: over 40% of the items in NOAALINC (the online catalog) and their manual catalogs are not found anywhere else. Unique polar research materials include historic and current reports from various polar expeditions, with research and observations from both the Arctic and Antarctic regions. The presence of these unique and historical resources in NOAA prompted the Library to participate in 4th International Polar Year (IPY) 2007-2008 activities.

Many unique and historically valuable NOAA polar research documents and scientific data, in the forms of digital videos, still images, and datasets, have been entered into the NOAALINC, the National Oceanographic Data Center (NODC) Ocean Archive System (OAC), and other oceanographic information catalogs and databases. This was possible thanks to the Library's collaboration with several NOAA projects and programs, including the Video Data Management System (VDMS), Climate Data Modernization Program (CDMP), and NODC Cruise Report Program.

Over one hundred fifty of these unique and historically valuable documents were selected, cataloged, imaged and entered into NOAALINC to assure online, open access to their full-text files. A comprehensive bibliography has been prepared to provide an additional access point to the polar related resources via the Library's home page. This online bibliography also serves as an Internet locator for printed and remote resources in polar research. It is available via the NCL Bibliographies' home page at: <http://docs.lib.noaa.gov/rescue/Bibliographies/IPY2007.pdf>

During the 4<sup>th</sup> International Polar Year, the NOAA Library Network collections serve as an important resource for polar data and research.

### I. INTRODUCTION

The International Polar Year is an international cooperative effort "to fully investigate every possible aspect of the Polar Regions - the seas, the land and the ice; the life and peoples who are at home at the Poles, and even the view of the universe from the 'ends of the Earth'." [1] The 4<sup>th</sup> International Polar Year is an important opportunity to increase public awareness of research into weather and climate conditions at the poles, including incremental temperature and ice thickness changes, and other phenomena. To better understand the historical patterns of climate change, early oceanographic and atmospheric observations and data are significant to this research. NOAA's national data centers and their libraries are primary scientific resources in the search for the answers to these global climatic anomalies.

The NOAA Central Library and Information Network maintains collections of over 3 million volumes in all formats. Collections include books, technical reports, maps, scientific observations, photographs, professional journals, videos, and artifacts. Many are in electronic format and widely available to NOAA scientists and to the general public via NOAALINC, its online catalog at: <http://www.lib.noaa.gov/uhtbin/webcat>.

NOAALINC presents holdings of 30 NOAA libraries around the country, including two regional centers in Miami and Seattle. The online catalog contains links to over 45,000 full-text documents and other web resources. These include many historical documents containing observations in climate, oceanography, fisheries, and early surveying of the coasts of United States. Over 50% of the NOAA libraries' collections are found nowhere else in the world. These include historical data from early polar expeditions and polar cruises sponsored during the first three International Polar Years.

The NOAA Central Library's participation in the 4<sup>th</sup> International Polar Year activities is a generational opportunity

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to support the NOAA scientists and the research community in their projects in IPY 2007-2008.

The events of the 4<sup>th</sup> IPY provide a great occasion for the NOAA librarians to assess, catalog, preserve, archive and provide online access to historical documents concerned with polar regions. A goal of this project is to make rare and unique historical material available in full-text via an online environment. NOAA's historical collections contains books, government reports, expedition reports, photographs and other forms of documentation concerning explorers, scientists and organization prominent in the advancement of knowledge about polar regions.

## II. HISTORICAL POLAR DOCUMENTS

NOAA Central Library is recognized as an important resource for polar discoveries and polar research. These historical publications include reports from early Arctic and Antarctic expeditions from the European countries, Australia, Canada, and the United States. Its Rare Books Collection offers unique accounts of early polar explorations from 1700s though 1950s when 3<sup>rd</sup> IPY activities concluded. Significant examples are:

1. *An Account of the Arctic Regions with a History and Description of the Northern Whale-Fishery*. W. Scoresby. 1820 (see Fig.1).
2. *Narrative of a Second Voyage in Search of a North-West Passage: and of a Residence in the Arctic Regions During the years 1829, 1830, 1831, 1832, 1833*.
3. *Arctic Explorations: the Second Grinnell Expedition in Search of Sir John Franklin, 1853, '54, '55*.
4. *The Open Polar Sea: a Narrative of a Voyage of Discovery Towards the North Pole, in the Schooner "United States."* 1867.
5. *Report of the Cruise of the U.S. Revenue-Steamer Corwin in the Arctic Ocean*. 1881.
6. *Instructions for the Commanding Officers of the International Polar Stations Occupied by the Signal Service*. 1881.
7. *International Polar Expedition to Point Barrow, Alaska*. 1881.
8. *The Voyage of the Jeannette: the Ship and Ice Journals of George W. De Long, Lieutenant-Commander U. S. N., and Commander of the Polar Expedition of 1879-1881*. (see Fig.2).
9. *Die meteorologischen Beobachtungen und die Analyse des Schiffcurses während der Polarexpedition unter Weyprecht und Payer, 1872-1874*.
10. *Narrative of the North Polar Expedition: U.S. Ship Polaris, Captain Charles Francis Hall commanding*. 1876.

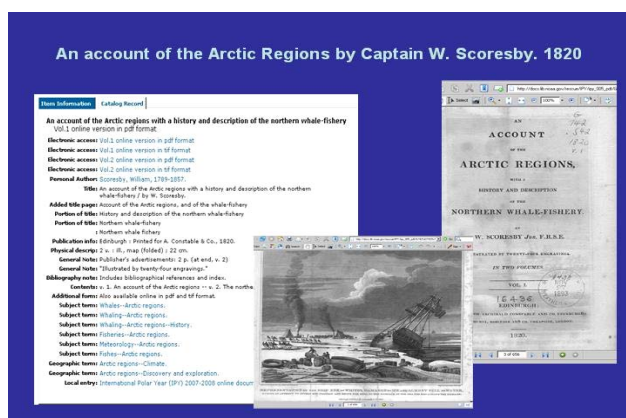


Fig. 1. An Account of the Arctic Regions with a History and Description of the Northern Whale-Fishery, W. Scoresby. 1820. Book in full-text available via NOAAALINC

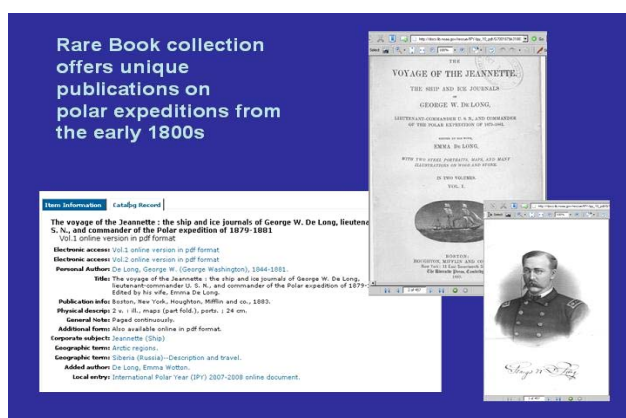


Fig. 2. The Voyage of the Jeannette: the Ship and Ice Journals of George W. De Long, Polar Expedition of 1879-1881. Book in full-text available via NOAAALINC

The preceding examples, along with another one hundred fifty significant documents, are available in full-text online via NOAAALINC at <http://www.lib.noaa.gov/uhtbin/webcat> and the library's IPY web site.

The NOAA Historical Polar Research Collection Web Site (see Fig. 3) also supports the Agency's and NOAA Central Library (NCL) activities during International Polar Year 2007-2008. It displays a selection of exclusive online resources on exploration and research in Polar Regions. The collection includes library holdings from the 1st (1881-1883) through the 3rd (1957-1958) International Polar Years. The selected documents are available online full-text at: [www.lib.noaa.gov/collections/polar/ipy.html](http://www.lib.noaa.gov/collections/polar/ipy.html)

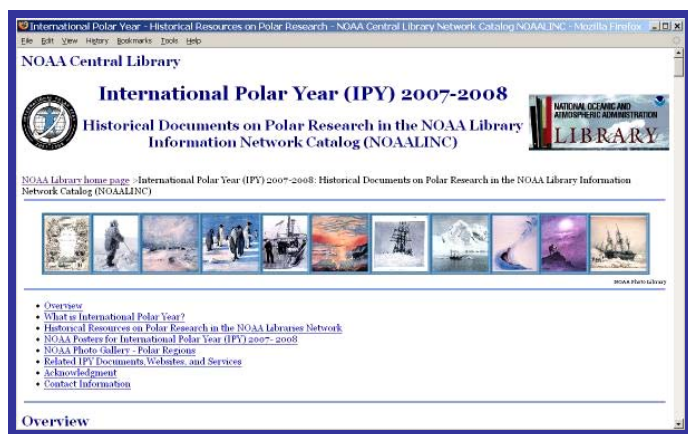


Fig. 3. Historical Polar Resources home page developed in the NOAA Central Library for IPY 2007-2008 ([www.lib.noaa.gov/collections/polar/ipy.html](http://www.lib.noaa.gov/collections/polar/ipy.html))

The library's *Polar Poster* was also developed as a visual display of the library activities for IPY. It is available in PDF, JPEG, and TIFF formats for downloading from the library's IPY home page at: <http://www.lib.noaa.gov/docs/bibliographies.html> (see Fig. 4)

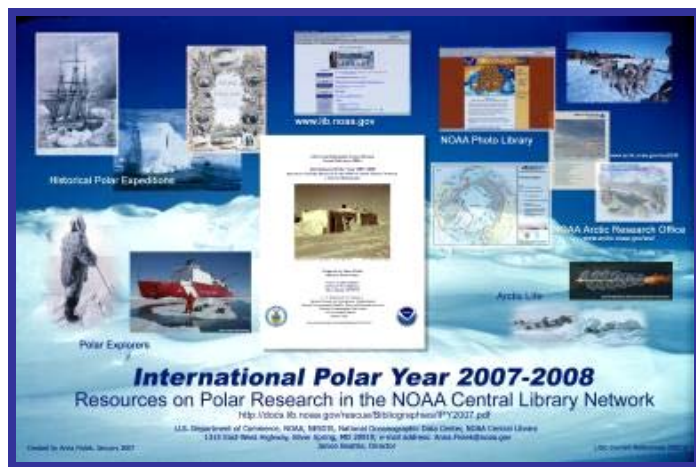


Fig. 4. Polar Poster developed in the NOAA Central Library for International Polar Year 2007-2008 (<http://www.lib.noaa.gov/docs/bibliographies.html>)

### III. PRINTED AND POLAR ONLINE PUBLICATIONS

To provide additional access to NOAA's polar resources, a bibliography has been compiled, entitled: *International Polar Year (IPY) 2007-2008: Historical Documents on Polar Research in the NOAA Library Information Network*. It reflects the NCL network's unique print and online resources on this subject. This bibliography includes over 2000 citations and is organized by title. The data and listings are comprehensive from the 18th century to the present. The formats represented include print, CD-ROM, online full-text documents, digital videos, digital images, online cruise data and Web resources.

The bibliography is organized into four sections: I. What is the International Polar Year? II. Historical Resources on

Polar Research in the NOAA Central Library Special Collections. III. Current Resources on Polar Research in the NOAA Central Library Network. IV. Internet Resources on Polar Research.

This publication was updated as of April 2007 and is available online via the NOAA library's home page at: <http://docs.lib.noaa.gov/rescue/Bibliographies/IPY2007.pdf>

### IV. CURRENT POLAR OBSERVATIONS AND CRUISE REPORTS

In addition to historical polar documents, the National Oceanographic Data Center and the NOAA Central Library enable access to contemporary oceanographic observations, cruise information, and digital video data. These cruise reports, digital videos, and scientific data sets are also available online via the NODC Ocean Archives System (OAS) at: <http://www.nodc.noaa.gov/search/prod/>, and via NOAAINLC, library online catalog at: <http://www.lib.noaa.gov/uhtbin/webcat>.

Fig. 5 is an example of NOAAINLC metadata information on a cruise to the Antarctic Ocean in 1969 and 1970 (*Eltanin reports. Cruises 37-39, 1969. 42-46, 1970 : hydrographic stations, bottom photographs, current measurements, nephelometer profiles*). A hot link from the library record in MARC21 standards provides direct access to the raw observations from the same cruise via NODC OAS database displayed in Fig. 6.

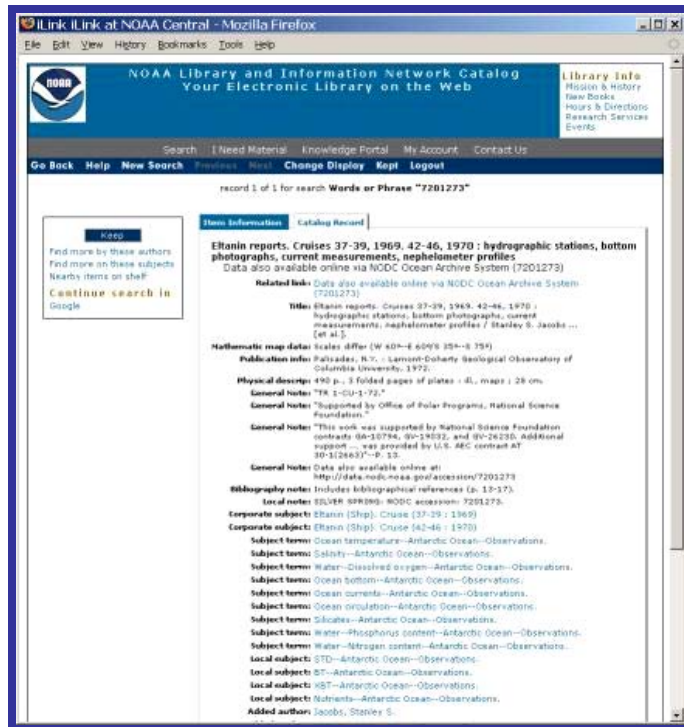


Fig. 5. The NOAAINLC's metadata provides access to the polar cruise report and to the NODC OAS database



NODC provides long term archival storage, management and stewardship of digital oceanographic data and metadata. Each new collection of data is assigned an NODC accession number as a tracking number for the collection. A copy of cruise reports and related data files from specific Ocean Exploration polar expeditions are placed in the associated NODC accession(s), with a link to the file established in the NOAAALINC.

The NOAA Office of Ocean Exploration (OE) provides information on various polar expeditions via the NOAA Ocean Explorer portal at <http://oceanexplorer.noaa.gov/>. The resources include cruise summaries, digital images, digital video clips, educational lesson plans, and daily logs of cruise activities.

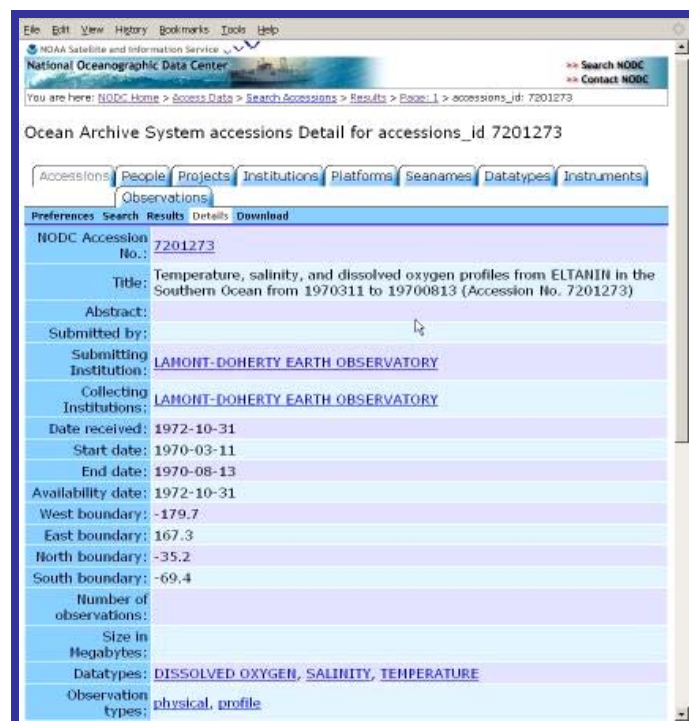


Fig. 6. NODC OAS's Accession record providing access to raw observations from the polar cruise described in NOAAALINC

## V. DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHS

The NOAA Photo Library offers over 2000 digital images pertaining to the polar themes in both low and high resolutions that are available online for viewing and/or downloading. Most of the polar photos are included in two photo albums entitled *NOAA at the ends of the Earth* and *NOAA's Ark* at: <http://www.photolib.noaa.gov/>.

The pictures were taken by NOAA scientists during their various field projects and assignments in the Arctic, Antarctic and other distant Polar Regions. The albums are part of the NOAA Photo Library, an online collection of over 35,000

photographs organized, digitized and annotated by the NOAA Central Library staff.

Polar images are also available via the NOAA Central Library's IPY home page at: [www.lib.noaa.gov/collections/polar/ipy.html](http://www.lib.noaa.gov/collections/polar/ipy.html)

## VI. SUMMARY

The NOAA Central Library's IPY project and products are good examples of how NOAA's scientific data in both physical and online formats are archived and preserved for future generations. The library and data center staff will continue to collaborate closely with NOAA scientists and educators to improve the quality and completeness of metadata and information used in NOAAALINC, NODC Ocean Archive System to improve access and use by NOAA's global customer base.

To find more information on NOAA activities during 4<sup>th</sup> International Polar Year, contact the Agency's IPY home page at: <http://www.ipy.noaa.gov/>

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## REFERENCES

- [1] *International Polar Year: NOAA Explores the Poles*. 2007. Silver Spring, MD: U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, August 2, 2007 < <http://www.ipy.noaa.gov/> >